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Global Agriculture Information Network

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U.S. Embassy Vienna

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## **Market Brief - Product**

### **Croatia : Frozen Beef**

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Vienna [AU1], HR

Since 1990 there has been a sharp drop in cattle production of circa 40,000 cattle/year, so that cattle inventories have fallen from 830,000 cattle in 1990 to 438,000 in 1999. This resulted in a sharp drop in beef production (in 1999 circa 73,000 cattle were slaughtered while in pre-war 1990 the number of slaughtered cattle was close to 300,000.)

**Table 1. Cattle Inventories & Beef Production**

	1990	1997	1998	1999
Cattle (Total )	830,000	451,000	443,000	438,000
Heifers & Cows	492,000	304,000	300,000	295,000
Beef Production (MT)	76,000	29,831	29,935	30,000*

\*1999 Beef Production Estimate

Annual Croatian beef consumption is estimated to be circa 55,000 MT, so Croatia is a large importer of live animals, and fresh, chilled and frozen beef.

### Imports of Frozen Beef

The great majority (85%-90%) of total imported frozen beef falls into the category of boneless beef.

**Table 2. Frozen Boneless Beef Imports (1996-1998, Metric Tons and U.S. Dollars)**

HS Code	Description	Code	1996	1997	1998
Total 0102 Imports	Live Animals		18,778 (\$33,845,754)	31,719 (\$52,972,694)	18,626 (\$30,263,000)
Total 0201 Imports	Beef, Fresh or Chilled		1,044 (\$3,320,945)	2,099 (\$7,181,358)	2,486 (\$8,374,654)
Total 0202 Imports	Frozen Beef		5,926 (\$12,870,592)	7,420 (\$14,647,794)	5,294 (\$11,141,628)
<b>0202.30</b>	<b>-Boneless</b>				
0202.301	--- calves	020230100	0 (\$889)	16 (\$36,919)	17 (\$35,465)
0202.302	--- bull calves	020230207	14 (\$97,095)	26 (\$172,667)	51 (\$305,451)
0202.303	--- cattle	020230304	4,488 (\$10,132,371)	6,125 (\$12,439,058)	4,546 (\$9,720,793)
0202.309	--- other	020230908	71 (\$98,917)	187 (\$290,266)	272 (\$374,127)

As easily discernible, the most important import item would be boneless beef (HS 020230304).

**Table 3: Croatia, Trade in Boneless Beef, Metric Tons and U.S. Dollars**

Description	HS Code	1998	Country of Origin 1998 (Metric Tons)	1999 (Jan-Sep)	Country of Origin 1999 (Metric Tons)
-Boneless --- cattle	020230304	4,546 (\$9,720,793)	Italy - 857 Australia - 557 Bosnia - 425	2,298 (\$3,701,237)	Italy - 1,081 Austria - 500 Hungary - 426

Despite large imports of frozen beef in the 1996-1999 period, U.S. exporters were directly present in the Croatian market only in 1996, with 89 MT (\$333,823) of frozen boneless beef.

### Import Tariffs

Croatia does not impose import quotas on frozen beef. The import ad valorem and specific duties for frozen beef are:

**Table 4. Import Customs Tariffs - Frozen Beef**

Description	HS Code	Unit of quantity	Rate of Ad Valorem duty	Specific Duty
Meat of bovine animals, frozen. -Boneless				
--- calves	020230100	kg	25	8.35 HRK
--- bull calves	020230207	kg	25	8.35 HRK
--- cattle	020230304	kg	25	0.00
--- other	020230908	kg	25	3.36 HRK

### Health-Sanitary Import Requirements

All live animals, and fresh, chilled and frozen meat imports must meet the “Import Requirements: Veterinary-Health Conditions” set by the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Imported goods are inspected for compliance by the Border Veterinary Inspection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry:

Office of Director,  
Border Veterinary Inspection Service (Granicna Veterinarsko-sanitarna Sluzba)  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,  
Avenija Vukovar 78  
10000 Zagreb

Tel: (++385-1) 610-6207

Fax: (++385-1) 610-9207

<http://www.veterinarstvo.hr>

### **Import Requirements - Veterinary-Sanitary Conditions for the Import of the Meat of Cows, Bulls, Heifers, Bullocks and Calves in the Republic of Croatia**

1. Every shipment imported into the Republic of Croatia must be accompanied by a certificate in which an authorized veterinarian of the exporting country or the country of origin confirms the following:
  - That the cattle in the shipment meet the conditions established in the International Animal Health Code (OIC), i.e.:
    - That the meat comes from animals from a place that has been free of contagious diseases during the time, before and after slaughter of the same, that could be carried by this shipment;
    - That in the place of the origin of the animals there has not been any foot-and mouth disease confirmed during the past 24 months: and at the time of slaughter
    - That the animals from which the meat comes were examined before and after slaughter and found to be healthy and not suspected of having contagious diseases that are subject to mandatory reporting;
    - Bovine spongiform encephalopathy;
    - That the meat was obtained from animals who have never been fed on protein of animal origin;
    - That the bones and visible lymphatic tissue and the nerve tissue have been removed from the fresh meat;
    - That the meat was obtained from animals that never were in any country during the time when that country permitted the use of protein of ruminant origin in the feed of ruminates;
    - That the animals were examined prior to slaughter by an official veterinarian of the country in which they were slaughtered and no signs whatsoever were found that suggest neurological changes;

- That in the country of the exporter, there is mandatory reporting of BSE;
  - That animals with confirmed signs of BSE have been destroyed;
  - That in the country of the exporter there is a continuous system of monitoring and supervision in accordance with Article 3.2.13.1 (OIE);
  - That in the country of the exporter, there is a prohibition in effect against the use of protein of mammalian origin (except milk and dairy products);
  - That the meat is derived from animals which were born after the date on which the ban on the use of ruminant meat-and-bone meal in feed for ruminants has been effectively enforced;
  - That meat and meat products are not derived by using mechanically de-boning system and mechanically recovered meat;
  - That the meat does not contain specified risk material as defined in Commission Decision 97/534/EC;
  - That the slaughtering houses from which the meat was obtained are under constant veterinary-sanitary supervision and that they are registered for export;
  - That the meat is marked with seal of the slaughtering house, with date of slaughter and the control export number;
  - That the meat is impeccable from the veterinary-sanitary standpoint and without restriction for human consumption;
  - That the meat does not contain harmful substances (pesticides, antibiotics, sulfonamides, hormones, etc.) in amounts greater than permitted according to the prevailing regulations of the Republic of Croatia;
  - That the shipment does not show a level of radioactive contamination greater than permitted in the Republic of Croatia
2. Each shipment of meat must be accompanied by a certificate from the authorized veterinary agency of the country of the exporter or the country of origin in which it is stated that the meat was stored and handled according to the requirements of hygiene, and that the meat was stored in refrigerators that are under constant veterinary-sanitary supervision.
3. At the arrival of the shipment, for the purpose of determining the presence of residues of pesticides, antibiotics, sulfonamides, hormones, anabolics, heavy metals and radioactive substances, the border veterinary inspector takes a sample of the meat for testing consisting of a sample of muscle tissue with corresponding fatty tissue,

- Insofar as a transport vehicle has meat from several slaughtering houses - suppliers, it is necessary to take samples from each of the suppliers. If the border veterinary inspector is not able to take samples for testing, on the original accompanying documentation he shall write instructions to the municipal veterinary inspection in the place of destination of the shipment for taking samples for testing according to the same system,
- The samples are delivered for this purpose to an authorized laboratory with instructions for them to be tested for harmful substances;

The agency that took the samples shall inform the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Veterinary Administration in writing of the results of testing.

4. Transport vehicles and transport conditions must correspond to the type of shipment and comply with stipulations of the prevailing regulations in the Republic of Croatia.
5. The importer or the user of the shipment is required to promptly inform the authorized veterinary inspector of the arrival of the shipment.
6. All costs that are incurred in connection with the application of the measures from this ruling are the responsibility of the importer (Article 70, paragraph 3, of the Law on Veterinary Service, Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 70/97).
7. The ruling is in effect for 3 months from the date it is issued or until it is revoked by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

### **Quality Control**

Compliance with all other Croatian legislation pertaining to marketing of food products in Croatia is monitored by the "State Inspectorate":

Office of Director,  
State Inspectorate (Drzavni Inspektorijat)  
Avenija Vukovar 78  
10000 Zagreb

Tel: (++385-1) 610-6907  
Fax: (++385-1) 610-9115

## **Major Croatian Frozen Boneless Beef Importers**

1) “Danica d.o.o.”

Mr. Darko Mikulec, General Director,  
Delekovecka cesta 21,  
48000 Koprivnica

Tel: (++385-48) 652-300  
Fax: (++385-48) 647-067

2) Gavrilovic d.d.

Mr. Georg Gavrilovic, General Director  
Gavrilovicev trg 1,  
44250 Petrinja

Tel: (++385-44) 811-266  
Fax:(++385-44) 811-041

3) PPK Karlovacka Industrija Mesa

Mr. Vladimir Skolan, General Director  
Selce 33,  
47000 Karlovac

Tel: (++385-47) 645-117  
Fax: (++385-47) 645-131

4) Comerc - Baraca Pivac

Mr. Ivica Pivac, General Director,  
Tezacka bb,  
21275 Vrgorac

Tel: (++385-21) 674-433  
Fax: (++385-21) 674-477

5) PIK Vrbovec

Mr. Stjepan Ljatifi,  
Zagrebacka 148,  
10349 Vrbovec

Tel: (++385-1) 2794-622

Fax: (++385-1) 2794-722

6) Improm

Mr. Damir Sket, General Director  
Cubinec 28,  
48260 Krizevci

Tel: (++385-48) 693-554

Fax: (++385-48) 681-478

7) Industrija Mesa d.o.o.

Mr. Drago Mustecak, General Director  
Varazdinska 35,  
42240 Ivanec

Tel: (++385-42) 781-611

Fax: (++385-42) 782-047

8) Stanic d.o.o.

Mr. Zvezdan Stanic, General Director  
Pusine 5,  
10430 Samobor

Tel: (++385-1) 2392-722

Fax: (++385-1) 2392-742

9) Carn Commerce

Mr. Zeljko Hadija,  
Matice Hrvatske 14A,  
43000 Bjelovar

Tel: (++385-43) 242-352

Fax: (++385-43) 242-354

10) Cromax

Mr. Darko Sket, General Director  
Male Sredice bb,  
43000 Bjelovar



Tel: (++385-43) 217-951

Fax: (++385-43) 217-952

Exchange rate as of January 26, 2000: HRK 7.60 = \$1.00